

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 AGR-05 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 H-02

DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 HEW-02 /076 W

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O R 150058Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2384

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

DEA HDQS WASHDC

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LA PAZ FOR AMB. VANCE; ARA FOR DEP. ASST. SEC. LUERS;

S/NM FOR ERNST; DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON NARCOTICS COMMISSIONS

REF: (A) MEXICO 365, (B) MEXICO 233, (C) MEXICO 11321

1. SUMMARY: IN REF (A), WE PROMISED LATER MESSAGE
CONTAINING OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION.

MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL CONFIRMED ON JANUARY 13 THAT

THE LETTERS FROM MEXICAN PRESIDENT TO PRESIDENT FORD

AND PRESIDENTS OF BOTH HOUSES OF U.S. CONGRESS WERE

BEING PREPARED AND WOULD BE FORWARDED WITHIN NEXT

DAY OR TWO. DESPITE OBVIOUS RISKS THAT THE NEW

ORGANIZATIONS MIGHT BECOME SUBSTITUTES FOR ACTION,

WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE IS

MOST PROMISING. THE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING APPARENTLY

ALREADY HAS BROUGHT THE ARMY ON BOARD FOR THE

INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN. OUR INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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ARE GIVEN BELOW (PARA 4) END SUMMARY.

2. IN AMBASSADOR'S JANUARY 13 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, LATTER CONFIRMED THAT THE LETTERS FROM PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA TO PRESIDENT FORD AND (WE THINK) TO PRESIDENTS OF BOTH HOUSES OF U.S. CONGRESS (SEE REF (B)) WERE ALREADY PREPARED AND WERE NOW BEING CLEARED BY SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. OJEDA SOMEWHAT REGRETTED THIS DELAY BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE COMMUNICATIONS BE CAREFULLY DONE AND REFLECTIVE OF BEST GOM THINKING ON THE NARCOTICS SUBJECT. HE SAID THE LETTERS WOULD BE SENT TO AMBASSADOR IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO FOR TRANSMITTAL. (COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S IDEA IS, WE BELIEVE, A MOST FORTUITOUS ONE, IN THAT IT IS AN ENTIRELY MEXICAN INITIATIVE WHICH, AS A MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL LETTER GOING NORTH FIRST, IS FAR MORE CONVINCING THAN A MERE REACTION TO A U.S. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION. THE ECHEVERRIA PROPOSAL COMES AS THE CULIMATION OF THE APPROACHES MADE OVER TIME BY AMBASSADORS VANCE AND JOVA; BY CONGRESSMAN RANGEL; ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVI DURING HIS DECEMBER 29 CONVERSATION WITH OJEDA WHEN HE CARRIED THE MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S CONCERN; AND FINALLY BY THE EXCELLENTLY TIMED VISIT OF CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN. WHILE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWIN COMMISSIONS DOES RUN THE RISK OF BEING NOTHING MORE THAN AS ONE CYNIC PUT IT, A PRETTILY WRAPPED GIFT BOX, WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE GIFT AND BY THE IDENTITY OF THE DONOR. THE MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S SINCERITY AND CONCERN WERE CONVINCING AND WE SEE HIS INITIATIVE AS PROVIDING THE VERY FRUITFUL ELEMENT OF HIGHLY VISIBLE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENT TO THE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

3. IN AN ASIDE CONCERNING THE PROGRESS OF THE NARCOTICS ERADICATION CAMPAIGN, OJEDA NOTED TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT AS AN OUTCOME OF THE JANUARY 10 MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT (REF A), THE CHIEF OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GENERAL STAFF HAD SENT A DIRECTIVE TO ALL ARMY COMMANDS INSTRUCTING THEM TO PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON THE NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AND TO PROVIDE FULL COOPERATION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS PERSONNEL. OJEDA REMARKED THAT CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR GERTZ ON JANUARY 12 VISITED THE THREE ARMY ZONE COMMANDERS IN SINALOA, DURANGO, AND CHIHUAHUA. THEY WERE ENTHUSIASTIC AND COOPERATIVE, HE SAID.

(COMMENT: APPARENTLY THE ARMY IS NOW IN THE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN AS A RESULT OF THE 10 JANUARY MEETING TO WHICH THE SECDEF SENT HIS STAFF CHIEF. DATT QUESTIONS WHY THE SECDEF HIMSELF CHOSE NOT TO ATTEND, SINCE IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY INVITED. AT ANY RATE, THE SECDEF NOW HAS THE AWAITED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT. PRIOR TO THAT, WE HAD REPORTED (REF.C) THAT THE SECDEF'S STAFF CHIEF WAS WAITING FOR THE AG TO MAKE HIS PITCH FOR HELP IN THE "INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN," QUITE APART FROM THE ARMY'S OWN ON-GOING CAMPAIGN. END COMMENT.)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: FINAL DECISIONS ON THE EXACT FORM TO BE GIVEN THESE NEW MECHANISMS MUST AWAIT RECEIPT OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WE KNOW WASHINGTON WILL BE GIVING URGENT CONSIDERATION TO THE MOST PRACTICAL AND PRODUCTIVE OF POSSIBLE ORGANIZATIONAL SCHEMES. WE WOULD FORESEE A VERSION OF THE EXISTING CCINC, ESPECIALLY CONSTITUTED TO CONSIDER THE MEXICAN PROBLEM ONLY, AND EXPANDED (BY THE INCLUSION OF EDUCATORS, MEDIA REPS, ETC.) TO REFLECT THE COMPOSITION OF THE MEXICAN NATIONAL COMMISSION. EACH NATIONAL BODY SHOULD HAVE A SMALL STEERING, OR EXECUTIVE, COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD MEET WITH ITS COUNTERPART AT REGULAR AND FREQUENT INTERVALS. WHEN MEETING TOGETHER, THE TWO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES COULD CONSTITUTE A JOINT WORKING GROUP TO MAKE ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TWO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS. THE TWO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS MIGHT ALSO MEET JOINTLY AS A PLENARY BODY LESS FREQUENTLY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PERHAPS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. WE ARE NOT AT THIS TIME PREPARED TO SUGGEST THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. COMMISSION; BUT WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO WOULD, OF COURSE, BE INCLUDED. WE WOULD HOPE THAT MEXICAN AMBASSADOR OLLOQUI WOULD BE A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MEXICAN COMMISSION OR COULD OTHERWISE BE DRAWN INTO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THIS EFFORT. EVENTUALLY, MEMBERS OF BOTH COMMISSIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN A PARTICULAR FIELD (E.G. REHABILITATION, PUBLIC EDUCATION) MIGHT FORM BILATERAL WORKING GROUPS AND MEET FOR SPECIALIZED DISCUSSION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS, OR PERHAPS EVEN UNDERTAKE JOINT PROGRAMS IN THOSE FIELDS.

5. WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF JOINT NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS OFFERED BY EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL LETTERS. CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND GILMAN OF COURSE WISH TO MAKE PRESENTATION OF ECHEVERRIA'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD. RECOGNIZE THAT PERHAPS THE SECRETARY HIMSELF MIGHT WISH TO DELIVER THE LETTER, IN WHICH CASE THE CONGRESSMEN COULD EFFECT DELIVERY OF THE LETTERS WE THINK ARE UNDER PREPARATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. IN ANY CASE, DELIVERY OF ECHEVERRIA LETTER PROVIDES OCCASION FOR APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF RECOGNITION OF ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE WHICH COULD FURTHER ENGAGE HIM AND GOM IN THIS EFFORT. ALTERNATIVELY PUBLICITY COULD AWAIT POST-DELIVERY RELEASE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S REPLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO00542
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-0722
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760154/aaaabwaq.tel
Line Count: 188
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 365, 76 MEXICO 233, 76 MEXICO 11321
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL ON NARCOTICS COMMISSIONS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006